

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 2258

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3587

LIMDIS

PASS STR FOR AMBASSADOR YEUTTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, ETRD, UY

SUBJ: FORTHCOMING FRENCH DEMARCHE RE ALLEGED YEUTTER

STATEMENTS IN URUGUAY

REF: (A) GENEVA 7292, (B) MONTEVIDEO 3284, (C) WATKINS-KNEPPER

LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 8

1. SOURCE OF FRENCH OBJECTIONS UNDOUBTEDLY WAS A REPORT IN THE MONTEVIDEO DAILY NEWSPAPER, "LA MANANA" OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3. PRESS CLIPPINGS, INCLUDING THAT ARTICLE, WERE FORWARDED SEPTEMBER 8 TO KNEPPER IN GENEVA AND TO BURSON IN DEPARTMENT, ARA-ECP.

2. THE "LA MANANA" ARTICLE CONTAINS BOTH ALLEGED COMMENTS TO WHICH THE FRENCH COMPLAINED; FIRST, THAT WE HAVE HAD MORE DISCUSSIONS AND DIFFERENCES WITH THE COMMUNITY THAN WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND SECONDLY, THAT FRANCE IS OUR PROBLEM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. AN OFFICIAL LAFTA TRANSCRIPTION OF THE YEUTTER
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DISCUSSIONS (COPY OF WHICH IS BEING SENT BOTH TO THE DEPARTMENT AND

TO GENEVA UNDER COVERING AIRGRAM) INCLUDES THE REFERENCE TO FRANCE IN THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: (REFERRING TO THE DESIRABILITY OF A MARCH OR APRIL MINISTERIAL MEETING TO REINVIGORATE THE MTN) "CELEBRARLA MAS TARDE CREARIA DIFICULTADES POR QUE EN 1978 HABRA ELECCIONES EN FRANCIA Y ESTE PAIS ES EL PROBLEMA EN MATERIA DE AGRICULTURA. ES NECESARIO NEGOCIAR SIEMPRE CON FRANCIA PARA LOGRAR ALGUN PROGRESO Y ELLO DEBE HACERSE DURANTE 1977."

3. HOWEVER, AS THE TRANSCRIPT SHOWS, THE COMMENT ABOUT THE FRENCH ROLE IN EC AGRICULTURAL POLICY AS NEAR THE END OF A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD, AND FOLLOWED EARLIER DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH THE AMBASSADOR'S INTENTION WAS CLEARLY TO --

(A) ENCOURAGE WESTERN HEMISPHERE EXPORTERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC MTN OBJECTIVE ON WHICH THE U.S. WOULD TRY TO BE HELPFUL, AND TO

(B) POINT OUT THE FAIRLY OBVIOUS COMMONALITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN THE U.S. AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT-EXPORTING COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE IN OBTAINING INCREASED MARKET ACCESS IN BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND JAPAN. THE MENTION OF FRANCE WAS ONLY INCIDENTAL TO YEUTTER'S GENERAL DISCUSSION WHICH FOCUSED ON THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, AND THE MAJOR FRENCH INTEREST IN THE CAP CERTAINLY CANNOT BE DENIED.

4. THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH THE COMMUNITY VERSUS THOSE IN DEALING WITH RUSSIA WAS MADE DURING THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD AND, ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY OFFICER IN ATTENDANCE, WAS MADE IN A LIGHT VEIN. HOWEVER, THE COMPARISON--ALTHOUGH ACTUALLY USED BY THE AMBASSADOR--DOES NOT SHOW UP IN THE LAFTA TRANSCRIPTION. THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT FOCUSING ON THE AMBASSADOR'S COMPARISON WAS A DISTORTION OF THE CONTEXT OF THE REMARK AND JOURNALISTIC SENSATIONALIZING OF WHAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE DRY FARE FOR THE AVERAGE READER. THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE DIFFICULTY AND COMPLEXITY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MTN WITH THE COMMUNITY AND JAPAN, AND THUS THE FEED FOR SOLID FORMULATION OF OBJECTIVES BY EACH COUNTRY.

5. MORE BASIC TO THE ISSUE WAS THE NATURE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH LAFTA REPRESENTATIVES. IT WAS ARRANGED WITH LAFTA TO BE HELD AS A RESERVED SESSION FOR MEMBERS, AND THE REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MEETING CARRIEXEA9 5\$\$ (5)1,43 34;3\$" RESTRICTION. UNDER SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, THE AMBASSADOR CLEARLY SPOKE INFORMALLY AND TO THE PARTICIPANTS INVITED. REACTIONS BY NON-PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS TO COMMENTS PRESENTED AFTER JOURNALISTIC FILTERING CAN BE CONSIDERED OUT OF PLACE. THE RECORD LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT THE U.S., THROUGH THIS MEETING, SOUGHT COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS IN THE MTN, AND IN NEITHER SPECIFIC COMMENT NOR THE AMBASSADOR'S GENERAL CONTEXT WAS THE

GOOD FAITH OF THE COMMUNITY OR ANY OF ITS PARTNERS DENIGRATED.

6. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED STATE 235484 WHICH WE NOTE TAKES
SIMILAR TACK.
HAAHR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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